

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Shunpei Yamazaki et al. Art Unit : 2629
Serial No. : 09/752,817 Examiner : Srilakshmi K. Kumar
Filed : January 3, 2001 Conf. No. : 9971
Title : DISPLAY SYSTEM AND ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE

Mail Stop Amendment

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REPLY TO ACTION OF JULY 25, 2008

In reply to the Office Action of July 25, 2008, applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 5-12, 18-22, 29-53 and 59-63 are currently pending with claims 5, 10, 18, 29 and 34 being independent.

Claims 5, 7-10, 12, 18-20, 22, 29-31, 33-37, 39, 53 and 59-63 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim (U.S. Patent No. 6,265,833) in view of Ikeda (U.S. Patent No. 5,714,969), Yamaguchi (U.S. Patent No. 6,853,083) and Shiratsuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,313,055). Claims 6, 11, 21, 32 and 38 have been rejected as being unpatentable over Kim in view of Ikeda, Yamaguchi, Shiratsuki and Poulton (U.S. Patent No. 5,702,323). Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections because neither Kim, Ikeda, Yamaguchi, Shiratsuki, Poulton nor any proper combination of the five describes or suggests electrically connecting a voltage changer to an electrode (e.g., the anode or the cathode) of an EL element via a switch provided in an external portion, as recited in each of the independent claims.

Recognizing the failure of Kim, Ikeda, Yamaguchi and Poulton to describe or suggest electrically connecting a voltage changer to an electrode (e.g., the anode or the cathode) of an EL element via a switch provided in an external portion, the rejection relies on Shiratsuki as doing so. In particular, the rejection points to Fig. 28 of Shiratsuki as showing a pixel (item 22), a voltage changer 24, and an external switch 25. However, item 22 of Shiratsuki is neither a pixel nor an EL element. Rather, item 22 is a light receiving element. In particular, as described by Shiratsuki at col. 16, line 61 to col. 17, line 48, Figs. 26-28 show a display device that includes display elements 12 and light receiving elements 22, with each light receiving element 22 including two photodiodes that are arranged so as to be opposed to each other. Shiratsuki's

switch 25 is connected to one of these photodiodes and is not connected to a display element 12. Accordingly, like the other references, Shiratsuki fails to describe or suggest connecting an EL element to a voltage changer using an external switch.

In addition, there would have been no reason to replace Ikeda's switch 22 with Shiratsuki's switch 25 since the switches are used for different purposes and are connected to different elements.

For at least these reasons, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

The fee in the amount of \$130 for a one-month extension of time is being paid concurrently herewith on the electronic filing system (EFS) by way of deposit account authorization. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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